

Students Weighing Increased Political Action

By ANTHONY RIPLEY
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MANHATTAN, Kan., Aug. 17 —The 21st annual congress of the National Student Association opened today at Kansas State University, with the emphasis strongly on student power.

Delegates representing student government at 366 colleges and universities began arriving in large numbers to take up questions of increased political action by the association and to search for ways to build effective student organizations to bring about educational reform.

Some 900 delegates are expected at the 10-day meeting.

How Talk Has Shifted

The single strongest influence on the students during the last year, most of the group's leaders agreed, was the Presidential campaign of Senator Eugene J. McCarthy. It is not because all agree with the Senator's political views or think his chances for the Democratic nomination are good.

Instead they view the McCarthy campaign as a dramatic display of how students can be mobilized into an effective force for political change.

"A year ago," said Glenn Roberts, a June graduate of Oberlin College, "the talk at the congress was whether or not it was right in a legal,

Association Opens Congress at Kansas State—Reform in Education Also a Goal

moral, ethical sense to challenge the dean of men's social rules.

"Now the talk is about building an effective, long-term political organization on the campus."

Mr. Roberts, chairman of the National Supervisory Board of the student association, said the effect of Senator McCarthy's campaign was to show students that they had power. It also brought them to a realization that there was "no sense fighting the faculty committee when the problem was a political one with the board of trustees."

Now Nonprofit Structure

He said, "There has never been a white middle-class machine before."

Edward Schwartz, also an Oberlin graduate and president of the student group, said one of the key issues at the convention is formation of a separate association corporation that would be involved in lobbying for legislative change.

The present structure is as an educational nonprofit corporation which can accept tax

deductible gifts. Such gifts lose their tax-exempt status when used for lobbying.

To preserve the old structure and embark on a political action campaign requires a second corporation, he said.

Mr. Schwartz said the dual corporation issue faced a difficult fight. Delegates to the congress hold a wide variety of political views, but liberals tend to dominate. Last year, for example, the congress approved by majority vote a resolution in support of black power, legalizing marijuana and encouraging draft resistance.

The issues were controversial. There were enough objections, Mr. Schwarz said, to cause problems this year in securing the two-thirds vote needed to set up a political arm of the student association.

Among the speakers scheduled to address the congress are the comedian, Dick Gregory; Under Secretary of State Nicholas de B. Katzenbach; Dr. David Goldberg of the United States office of Education; Thomas Hayden, one of the founders of Students for a Democratic Society; Allard Lowenstein, a Nassau County, L. I. Congressional candidate, and Robert Sherr, editor of Ramparts magazine.

Senator McCarthy declined an invitation to speak to the students.